

the land. We owe it to the families of the children who died in Littleton to give all Americans the safety they deserve.

### **Statement on House Action on Gun Control Legislation**

*June 18, 1999*

This week, instead of listening to the American people and strengthening our gun laws, the House of Representatives listened to the gun lobby and did nothing at all. The House leadership gutted this bill in the dark of night to keep commonsense gun legislation from seeing the light of day.

The American people will not stand for this. Our Nation is waiting for Washington to pass a real law that keeps guns away from children and out of the hands of criminals. I call on the Congress to stop playing politics and start living up to its responsibility to help save lives.

### **Proclamation 7205—Father's Day, 1999**

*June 18, 1999*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

Each year on Father's Day, Americans take special joy in remembering the many cherished moments they have shared with their fathers through the years. Reading stories before bedtime, playing catch after dinner, camping out in the backyard, sharing driving lessons—at these moments and countless others throughout a lifetime, devoted fathers are there to guide their sons and daughters, to instill confidence in them, and to provide for them and protect them in times of need.

The impact of these moments on children's development and future is immeasurable. Although children may not understand it until they become parents themselves, these are the times when fathers impart to their sons and daughters strong values and teach them important lessons about love, responsibility, faith, hard work, and determination. In these moments, fathers imbue

in their children the strength and self-esteem they need to achieve their full potential.

As children grow and mature—from toddlers carried on their fathers' shoulders to teenagers who need help navigating the challenges of adolescence to young men and women who need guidance on life, love, family, and career—their relationships with their fathers change as well. Yet, the need for a father's friendship and wisdom continues to grow; and throughout all the seasons of life, fathers remain role models, teachers, heroes, and friends.

Vice President Gore and I have challenged fathers to be actively involved in their children's lives and to provide both emotional and financial support. Last June, the Vice President released a report showing that children who grow up without fathers are more likely to do poorly in school, to get into trouble with the law, and to have difficulty in getting and keeping a job. But our fathers cannot always meet their responsibilities to their children without help. That is why it is crucial that we lift up our fathers through efforts like the reauthorization of the Welfare-to-Work program so that more low income fathers can work, pay child support, and become more involved with their children.

We can never truly repay our fathers—whether biological, adoptive, foster, or step-father—for their many precious gifts to us, for their steadfast faith in our potential and abilities, for their unwavering devotion and unconditional love. We can, however, express our deep appreciation for all they have done and thank them for the many sacrifices they have made to create a better life for us. There is no more fitting national tribute to fathers than reserving a day in their honor, and there is no more appropriate celebration of their profound impact on the lives of their children and the strength of our Nation.

**Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton,** President of the United States of America, in accordance with a joint resolution of the Congress approved April 24, 1972 (36 U.S.C. 142a), do hereby proclaim Sunday, June 20, 1999, as Father's Day. I invite the States, communities across the country, and all the citizens of the United States to observe this

day with appropriate ceremonies and activities to express our deep appreciation and abiding love for our fathers.

**In Witness Whereof**, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-third.

**William J. Clinton**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 22, 1999]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on June 23.

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### **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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#### **June 12**

In the morning, the President traveled to Chicago, IL, and in the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

#### **June 13**

In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton attended "An American Celebration" at the Ford's Theatre.

The President had a telephone conversation with President Boris Yeltsin of Russia concerning NATO peacekeeping efforts in Kosovo.

#### **June 14**

The President had separate telephone conversations concerning NATO peacekeeping efforts in Kosovo with the following foreign leaders: President Boris Yeltsin of Russia, President Václav Havel of the Czech Republic, Prime Minister Ivan Kostov of Bulgaria, Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski of Macedonia, and Prime Minister Radu Vasile of Romania.

The President also had separate telephone conversations with President Hugo Chavez

of Venezuela concerning regional issues and cooperation on counternarcotics efforts, and Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee of India concerning the situation in Kashmir.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Connecticut and New York City on June 28; Chicago, IL, on June 30; Miami, FL, on July 13; and Cincinnati, OH, and Aspen, CO, on July 23.

#### **June 15**

In the evening, the President and Hillary and Chelsea Clinton traveled to Geneva, Switzerland, arriving after midnight.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jerry Florence to be a member of the National Museum Services Board.

The President announced his intention to appoint Dr. Gary Vikan as a member of the Cultural Property Advisory Committee.

The President announced his intention to appoint Thomas J. Donohue, Gerald Greenwald, Louis V. Gerstner, Jr., Rhonda Karparkin, and Robert Shapiro as members of the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations.

#### **June 16**

In the morning, the President met with President Ruth Dreifuss of Switzerland concerning the situation in Kosovo.

In the afternoon, the President and Hillary and Chelsea Clinton traveled to Paris, France. While en route aboard Air Force One, the President had separate telephone conversations with Rep. Nick Lampson and Rep. Bob Etheridge concerning proposed gun control legislation.

The President announced his intention to appoint Greta Dicus as Chair of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

#### **June 17**

In the evening, the President traveled to Cologne, Germany.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael A. Sheehan to be Coordinator for Counter-Terrorism with the rank of Ambassador at the Department of State.

#### **June 18**

The President announced his intention to nominate Dr. A. Lee Fritschler to be Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education at the Department of Education.